## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the matter of the Application of Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC to Revise its Lifeline Recovery Surcharge and Report Associated Annual Expense and Revenue Data

Case No. 11-1339-TP-ATA

## **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION** SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

On May 10, 2018, Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company (CBT) filed its annual true up calculations in support of their Lifeline Recovery Surcharge. 4901:1-6-19, O.A.C. allows an ILEC to recover through a customer billing surcharge on retail customers of the ILEC's telecommunications service other than lifeline service customers, any lifeline service discounts and any other lifeline service expenses that are not recovered through federal or state funding. ILECs that establish Lifeline Recovery Surcharges are required to annually file with the commission a report that identifies actual amounts recovered and the actual lifeline service discounts and any other lifeline service expenses incurred for the prior period. The company shall provide such data as necessary to enable the commission to validate such amounts to ensure that the company did not over recover its approved expenses from customers. With this filing CBT seeks to reduce its current Lifeline Recovery Surcharge of \$.03 per month to \$.01 per month. In the prior year's true-up, CBT's Lifeline Recovery Surcharge was lowered from \$.04 to \$.03 per month. Over the past year, the \$.03 surcharge has slightly over-recovered Lifeline expenses and the over recovery now stands at \$40,556. By doing so, CBT maintains that the new rate is expected to generate revenue less than Lifeline expenses and to significantly reduce the surplus.

The Staff has reviewed all documents filed with the application and has determined that the application has satisfied the requirements set forth in the rule. As such, Staff recommends that the application be approved and the current Lifeline Recovery Surcharge of \$.03 be reduced to \$.01 effective July 1, 2018.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Jason Well on behalf of PUCO Staff